

Minutes: April 13, 2006 LED Steering Committee Conference Call

Members Present: Greg Weeks, Becky Rust, Wande Reweta, Henry Jackson, Erica McEntarfer, John Dorrer, Jeremy Wu, Cynthia Swain

Agenda items and discussion:

1. LED Training

The committee feels this may be the most important goal we pursue. Without a good understanding of the QWIs, LMI analysts can not use the data, or describe its value to other potential users. Applying LED has been a weakness, historically. For training purposes, we have the curriculum developed by the Census Bureau and the LMI Institute is said to be interested in the idea.

The LMI Institute could organize the training, work on funding, and provide the site. There are only 3 or 4 people qualified to do this training. States will pay travel and training costs for their participants. There are three levels of training: the interested public needs to learn to operate the website, analysts within LMI shops need to learn the details of how to use the data, and they also need to become trainers. Our first priority is to train analysts within LMI shops to understand the data.

The next step is to get an official response from the LMI Institute. Henry will call Susan McIver, the Executive Director, to get their position. Greg will also ask Tim Norris, a member of the Board of Directors.

2. Steering Committee Membership

Greg reported that he has received feedback from 12 member states in support of the bylaw proposal. He will ask the remaining states again to vote on the amendment. If it passes, Greg will send out emails to regions that need to elect new members or confirm the existing ones. Regions will be given one month to do so.

3. Technical Subcommittee

The first “meeting”, a conference call, was held on 3/27/06. Ideas expressed during that call have been written up and will be distributed to the Steering Committee by Henry or Greg.

4. Program Update

LED Membership - Mississippi is ready to sign the standard MOU with the Census Bureau, making them an LED partner state. This may happen by the end of May and will make the total number of partner states 43. Massachusetts is in the pipeline.

On-The-Map

Two maintenance releases are coming in May and Oct. Excensus and the Census Bureau are always working on bugs. There is an address on the website people can report problems to.

Oklahoma is the 15th state to participate in On The Map and Iowa just signed up to be the 16th. Nine states are working on getting 2004 data agreements approved. When Jeremy gets 5 states signed up, he will start processing 2004 data. Alabama wants to pay the entire fee after the work is done, due to state law. This is a problem for the Census Bureau.

ETA is looking at “funding possibilities” for On The Map again. Their program year starts in July. ETA is particularly interested in aggregation and clustering.

One goal of the Defense Economic Adjustment Program is to “assist substantially and seriously affected communities, businesses, and workers from the effects of major Defense base closures, realignments, and Defense contract-related adjustments”. Maine, which was negatively affected by BRAC 2005, asked the Adjustment Program for funds to support On The Map and was turned down.

John Carpenter will present On The Map at the next BRAC committee meeting. The Census Bureau developed a process merging QWIs and ACS data, then using DataFerrett for reporting purposes. This will also be demonstrated to BRAC. Jeremy would like our help designing report templates. Illinois will share BRAC applications with Florida. Henry would like to be involved in meetings with BRAC on funding.

Jeremy is pursuing funding from the US Department of Transportation. The Census Bureau is setting up a virtual Research Development Center for transportation, so they can see, first hand, the value of our data.

Training - Workforce3 One is hosting a webinar on 4/26 for economic developers. Jeremy will describe On The Map, QWIs, and how they can be used.

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